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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Effects of Beria's Execution

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1. As the result of the executions of Beria, Merkulov, Dekanozov, Meshik, Kobulov, Goglidze and Vlozimirski, strong military measures against armed rising have been taken in the republics of Georgia, Armenia, Turkmenia and Uzbekistan. The plan for anticipating and crushing any revolts in these regions was in the hands of K.S. Moskalenko, member of the special session of the Soviet Supreme Court which condemned Beria.
2. As a pendant to the execution of Beria's group there have been mass purges and reshuffles of the local Central Committees in Leningrad, Irkutsh, Lysvensk (Urals) and Novosibirsk.
3. The suppression of any organized political opposition on the part of Beria's supporters is in the hands of N.S. Shatalin, member of the Party secretariat and former chairman of the cadres' department of the Central Committee.
4. Arrests of Beria's sympathizers on a large scale are currently in progress throughout the USSR as a result of the attempted assassination of I.F. Tevosyan, Minister of Metallurgical Industry. Tevosyan is an Armenian, and is widely regarded as the betrayer of his former patron and friend, V.N. Merkulov, former Minister of State Security and Minister of State Control. Tevosyan prevented Merkulov's promotion to the Ministry of the Interior and then arranged his downfall. The connection with the Beria case was not that Merkulov supported him, but that he opposed strong measures against him as dangerous to the stability of the regime.
5. Beria's execution caused serious troubles in the Black Sea fleet, necessitating the departure to Batum of L.I. Brezhnev, head of the political department of the Soviet Navy. Several warships have been confined to harbor, and there are to be changes in the command of the Black Sea fleet, which includes many Caucasians and Azerbaijanis.

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6. The executions failed to ease the tension in the Presidium.. Malenkov hurried the executions through over the objections of Molotov, and in compensation was forced to agree to the promotion to the Presidium of A.N. Kosygin, Molotov's most efficient supporter. Kosygin, 48 years old, has held the posts of Finance Minister and Minister of Light Industry and is now Minister of Manufactured Consumer Goods. He was dismissed from the Presidium in Oct 1952 by Stalin at the request of Malenkov. After Stalin's death, Kosygin tried to reconcile Molotov with Beria.
7. Kosygin is now the center of the opposition to Malenkov's personal dictatorship, and among his supporters are the remnants of the Beria group. It is likely that Malenkov will be forced to launch another purge of the Central Committee of the Party.
8. Due to the unfavorable impression produced in the Satellites by the execution of the Beria group, L.G. Melnikov and P.N. Baguirev have been deprived of all contact with foreign Communist Parties.

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